

REMARKS

1. The Applicant respectfully requests entry of amendments to claims 17, and 46-50. These amendments are believed to place the claims in condition for allowance.

35 USC § 112 Claim Rejections

2. Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's rejection of claims 17-29 and 31-47 under 35 USC 112 first and second paragraphs. In response, Applicant submits currently amended claim 17 wherein the alleged noncompliant language is deleted.

3. Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's rejection of claims 49-50 under 35 USC 112 first paragraphs. In response, Applicant submits currently amended claims 49-50 wherein the state of compression is limited to a closed range as disclosed and supported in the specification on page 17 line 25-29.

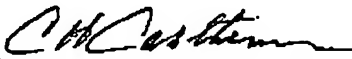
4. Claims 46-48 are also amended to include a closed range for the state of compression as disclosed and supported in the specification on page 17 line 25-29.

The Applicant believes the amendments meet the Examiner's §112 rejections and respectfully requests allowance of all entered claims. If any other issues arise, the Examiner is urged to call Patent Agent/Inventor Paul Dunlap at 303-744-4156, or myself.

FEE STATEMENT

Any fees required as a result of the amendments are authorized to be charged to Assignee's deposit account number 07-0475.

Respectfully submitted,


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- 7 -

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